



# The STEWARD

North Carolina Division of Parks and Recreation  
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Michael F. Easley  
Governor

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William G. Ross Jr.  
Secretary, DENR

## GOODBYE TO RANGER SCOTT

However affable and appealing, the "Ranger Scott" that graces so many visitor's center kiosks throughout the parks system remains but a two-dimensional caricature.

The real Ranger Scott Daughtry is a much more complex character whose commitment and compassion throughout a 32-year career with the parks system led him to become a symbol for so many things that are right about the state parks and the men and women who take care of them.

A full house of some 250 people reflected on the contributions that Daughtry and his alter ego "Ranger Scott" have made to the Division of Parks and Recreation at a retirement banquet Aug. 23.

Daughtry "is an icon in more ways than one and he has earned that role," said Phil McKnelly, division director. "The thing, I think, that earned Scott that role as an informal leader of this division is the fact that he's always been there for us."

As a ranger, park superintendent and south district superintendent,



*TOMMY WAGONER, LEFT, PRESENTS 'POSSUM PETE' TO DAUGHTRY.*

Daughtry set high standards for professionalism and did much to define the image of a North Carolina park ranger, but always with wry humor that emerged as "Scottisms," as Superintendent of State Parks Lewis Ledford called them.

"I can do anything, but I can't do everything," was a favorite.

Another was tucked into Daughtry's formal notice of retirement: "No one person can complete a 'to do' list in a

forever job."

Ledford said that Daughtry's career was marked not only by advocacy of the parks system's mission but advocacy for his employees and friends in the division.

"Whether it was personal or professional, just having Scott's big, strong arm around your shoulder was a resource. And, a lot of us have known that big, strong arm," Ledford said.

Daughtry was born in Johnston County and grew up in Jacksonville. He graduated from the University of North

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**INFO AND EVENTS**

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**Department of Environment and Natural Resources**

# UP CLOSE AND 'PERSONNEL'

**Jane Conolly**, Park Ranger II at Crowders Mountain State Park for six years, transferred to Gorges State Park. She holds a bachelor's degree in parks and recreation from the University of Georgia.

**Richard Hange**, who has worked as General Utility Worker at Morrow Mountain State Park for more than five years, was promoted to Maintenance Mechanic I at the park.

**Ronald Andunson**,

Park Ranger II at Morrow Mountain, was promoted to Park Ranger III at that park. He holds an associate's degree in recreation and wildlife from Hocking Technical College in Ohio and has worked at the park for more than 12 years.

**Scott Bolden** was promoted from Park Ranger I at William B. Umstead State Park, where he worked for more than five years, to Park Ranger II at Morrow Mountain State

Park. He holds a bachelor's degree in recreation management from Lake Superior State University.

**Larry Trivette** was promoted to Park Ranger III at Stone Mountain State Park, where he had been working as Park Ranger II. Trivette has been with the park for more than 21 years and has a bachelor's degree in recreation and park administration from Appalachian State University.

**Joseph Shimel** was promoted to a Park Ranger III at Carolina Beach State Park. He had worked at Falls Lake State Recreation Area as a Park Ranger II for nearly three and a half years. He has a bachelor's degree in parks, recreation and tourism management from North Carolina State University.

**Kecia Perkinson** was promoted to Park Ranger III from Park Ranger II at Kerr Lake State Recreation Area, where she has worked for more than five and a half years. Perkinson has a bachelor's degree in recreation and parks from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro.

**Mark Miller** was promoted from Park Ranger I at ENRI, where he had worked for more than two and a half years, to Park Ranger III at Kerr Lake State Recreation Area. He has a bachelor's degree from the University of Wisconsin at Stevens Point.

**Bill Duke** was promoted from a General Utility Worker to Park Ranger I at William B. Umstead State Park, where he has worked for more than four years. He has a naturalist and wildlife biology bachelor's degree from Appalachian State University.

## From The Director's Desk

The section chiefs, administrative program managers and I have been meeting as part of a department-wide process to evaluate and update short-term and long-term goals of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources. This strategic planning process can seem unnecessary and sometimes even redundant as it delves into the department's mission, vision and core values and how we all respond to changes in society and our "customers."

But, periodically reexamining where we're headed can be quite valuable. Structured planning can keep us from suddenly realizing "there go my people," and having to dash ahead of them in order to lead.

As part of this process, we take the opportunity to closely examine our own goals and intentions within the parks system, and I've often said we would do this regularly in the division regardless. This, in turn, gives us a chance to reflect on our planning successes, projects beginning to take form that were once only ideas.

An action plan to complete the eastern segment of the Mountains-to-Sea Trail from Wake County to the ocean is beginning to gel, as is a proposal to create a state park on the Haw River, an early project in our New Parks for a New Century initiative. We're close to a breakthrough on improvements to our radio communications, and we've made progress in environmental education through training, new programs and new exhibit projects. And, we're well into the construction drawing stage on a number of important capital projects at South Mountains, New River and Pilot Mountain state parks, Kerr Lake State Recreation Area and Dismal Swamp State Natural Area, among others.

So, I hope each of you will take time as the visitor season winds down to reflect on the good things we've accomplished during a difficult period and look ahead so we can be ready to take advantage of opportunities that may be coming our way.

Sincerely,

**Phil**

Philip K. McKnelly

# JUD BURNS TO LEAD SOUTH DISTRICT

William Jud Burns has been promoted to South District Superintendent for the state parks system. He replaces Scott Daughtry who retired Sept. 1 after 22 years in the position and 32 years with the division.

Burns, 49, has been superintendent at Lake Norman State Park since 1987. A native of Troy, he is a graduate of North Carolina State University, holding a bachelor's degree in recreation and parks administration.

Burns served an internship at Mount Mitchell State Park in 1975 and returned two days after graduation to resume seasonal duties there. He was hired as a fulltime ranger at Hanging Rock State Park in 1977. He returned to Mount Mitchell in 1979 and later served at Eno River

State Park. Burns was the first superintendent of Falls Lake State Recreation Area, serving there five years. He is certified in advanced law enforcement, environmental education and wastewater treatment plant operations.

In 1979, Burns married Sandy Speer, daughter of retired Hanging Rock Ranger Joe Speer and Verla Speer, and the couple has one son, Robert, an engineering student at the University of North Carolina at Asheville.

As one of four district



superintendents, Burns will be responsible for resource management, environmental education programming, law enforcement, safety and facility maintenance for 10 state parks from Morrow Mountain in Stanly County to Fort Fisher State Recreation Area on the coast.

Burns said, "My aspirations for the south district are not really different from any other location where I have been stationed. I intend to help the south district staff as it enhances the opportunities for the public to enjoy and appreciate their state parks and recreation areas.

"I hope to carry on the legacy of my predecessor in inspiring a conviction in others to achieve our division's mission."

# GARNER NEW CONSTRUCTION CHIEF

Bruce Garner has been promoted to chief of construction for the state parks system.

Garner, as a Facility Planner II, will be responsible for implementing the division's capital improvement program across 33 state parks and recreation areas.

He will direct a staff of project managers and will coordinate the planning, design and construction of a network of facilities and infrastructure currently valued at \$336 million.

He replaces Fred Hagenberger who retired in June after 30 years with the division.

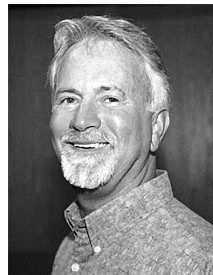
Garner, 53, is a native of Johnston County and a graduate of North Carolina State University with a bachelor's degree in parks and recreation. He attended Wake Technical Community College and is a licensed general contractor.

Prior to joining the division in 1989 as project manager, Garner worked for the Durham Parks and Recreation Department, was director of the Wendell Parks and Recreation Department and was employed for 10 years by Lowes Inc.

He has earned both a Special Achievement Award and a Heroism Award from the division.

Garner's wife Wanda is employed by the Johnston County school system and their daughter Kyla is a student at Johnston Community College.

Garner said, "I'm very appreciative for the division's



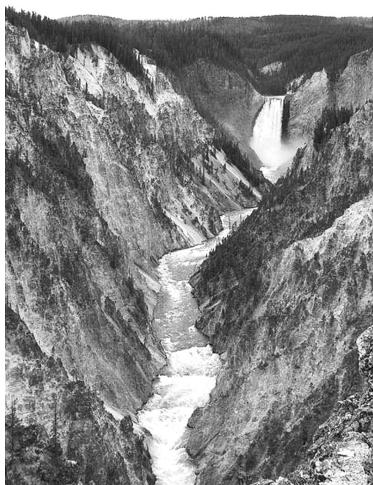
confidence in allowing me this opportunity. I consider the capital improvements program to have been operated in a very successful manner in the past under Fred Hagenberger and, before that, under Kevin MacNaughton.

"Without the need to 'reinvent the wheel,' I can hopefully spend more time with project details, fine-tuning our day-to-day construction operations and assisting in any way I can.

"Our parks have many needs and we're very fortunate in this day of a lean economy to have a dependable source of funding, the Parks and Recreation Trust Fund, to work with."

"I'm also fortunate to have such an experienced and dedicated staff in Alan Jeffreys, Lance White, Larry Ouzts and Jennifer Goss."





*RANGER SUE  
McBEAN, RIGHT,  
WAS AMONG  
NORTH CAROLINA  
EDUCATORS WHO  
EXPLORED  
YELLOWSTONE  
NATIONAL PARK  
THIS SUMMER.*



## ***RANGER GETS YELLOWSTONE EXPERIENCE***

By Ranger SUE McBEAN  
Jordan Lake SRA

Earlier this year, Jordan Lake State Recreation Area Superintendent Billy Totten left a Post-It note on my desk with an application. The note read, "Sue, if you can find the \$400, I will give you the time."

The application from the North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences for their Educators of Excellence Institutes program, offered a week-long trip to Yellowstone National Park for North Carolina educators selected through a competitive application process. All the selected educators would have to supply was money to meet travel and lodging expenses.

Educators of Excellence encourages educators to teach students about North Carolina's ecological connections to the rest of the world. Each year as part of this program, the museum program coordinates two summer trips for North Carolina educators to study science and natural resources.

A trip to Belize in Central America is offered every year. The second trip location varies from year to year. Next year, the trip will take educators to study dinosaur fossils in Canada. Participating educators join the Educators of Excellence Network, which helps teachers exchange innovative ideas for teaching science and promoting conservation awareness through its newsletter and activities.

This year, 14 North Carolina educators were selected to visit Yellowstone. To my total surprise, I found myself packing my bags and heading to the national park for the week of June 17.

I was surprised because I expected only classroom teachers would be selected. In fact, I was the first park ranger ever selected for this program.

I won't be the last, though! Ranger Jane Connolly is guaranteed a space on next year's trip to Canada. She was on the alternate list for Yellowstone this summer.

The trip was amazing. We saw more wildlife than I could have imagined. A few highlights were a peregrine falcon on a ledge with two chicks, an up-close (maybe a little too close) encounter with a grizzly bear, black bear cubs playing, newborn Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep, three wolves consuming an elk, and a family of sandhill cranes eluding a wily coyote. And those are just a few of the highlights!

We had the privilege of meeting Yellowstone's Bear Management Biologist Kerry Gunther and Wolf Project Leader Doug Smith. Both gave fascinating presentations about their work and projects. We also met wildlife photographers Dan and Cindy Hartman and enjoyed special tours of hot springs and geysers with park rangers.

This experience was more than just a great trip; I learned so much. This was a unique opportunity that I am so grateful to have been given. I would never have had the opportunity if I had not had the support of Superintendent Totten, who encouraged me to apply, gave me the time in June to go on the trip, and even made a phone call to the museum on my behalf.

Mike Dunn, the east district interpretation and education specialist more than a decade ago, is now coordinator for teacher education at the Museum of Natural Sciences, and he coordinates and leads the Yellowstone trips. Mike views these field adventures as a way for teachers to learn about state parks and the educational opportunities offered through parks, and he encourages North Carolina state park rangers to apply.

I urge other rangers to apply, and I would be happy to talk with anyone who is interested.

# HAMMOCKS BEACH DEDICATES EXHIBITS

The park system's largest visitor's center exhibit hall was dedicated Aug. 15 at Hammocks Beach State Park.

State Sen. Cecil Hargett of the Sixth District told the attendees, "This is a great addition to this county and to my district. You all certainly deserve all the accolades you can be given."

Aside from Fort Macon State Park, where exhibits are placed in a series of six casemates, the Hammocks Beach exhibit hall is the largest exhibit project ever undertaken by the Division of Parks and Recreation and was on the fastest schedule, said Marti Kane, lead interpretation and education specialist.

Planning for the project began before the 7,500-square-foot visitor's center was dedicated in November 2001. Separate design and construction contracts totaled \$450,000 from the Parks and Recreation Trust Fund.

"Our visitors are getting most of their information about our state parks from these exhibits," Kane said.

The hall offers a series of dioramas that represent the saltwater estuaries, maritime forests and beach dune systems found along the state's barrier islands. Bear Island's legacy as an important nesting site for the endangered loggerhead sea turtle is explained with the help of a mini-theater set inside a dune.

A cultural history section recounts the time when Native Americans used the island as a fishing camp, and its Midsummer Night Sky exhibit explores the constellations and relates Native American tales about their origins. Another exhibit ex-



VISITORS TOUR EXHIBITS FOLLOWING THE CEREMONY.

plains the involvement of the North Carolina Teachers Association, a group of black educators, and its counterpart, the Hammocks Beach Corp., which donated Bear Island for the park in 1961.

Representatives of the area's black community and the Hammocks Beach Corp. were well represented at the ceremony.

Mrs. Venice Cook, the mother of longtime Hammocks Beach ranger Jesse Hines, also attended and was presented with a framed montage of historic Hammocks Beach photographs.

Phil McKnelly, division director, said the exhibit hall is a valuable addition to the park for at least two reasons: as a reminder of the generosity of the park's donation, and as an all-weather teaching facility.

Much of the groundwork and research for the exhibits was done by rangers Sean McElhone and Sam Bland, and former ranger Ben Wunderly, all of whom attended the ceremony.

## IT'S ONE FOR THE BOOKS, BUT IT AIN'T PRETTY

A gigantic oyster toadfish caught offshore near Fort Macon State Park may have biologists rewriting the books.

Fort Macon State Park Ranger Scott Crocker caught a 20-inch oyster toadfish, five inches larger than the fish's reported maximum size. Had he kept the fish, Crocker would have earned a world and state record. But, after taking a picture of the fish, he released it.

"It was such a magnificent fish that I didn't want to kill it," Crocker said. "Now I guess being a conservational fisherman has cost me a world record!"

Crocker caught the fish in late May while fishing for cobia with Falls Lake State Recreation

Area Ranger John Metz

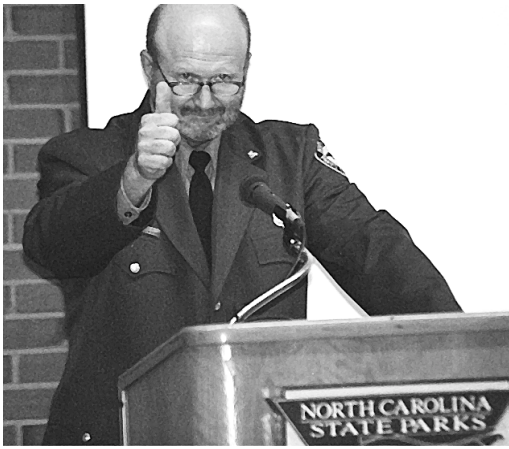


Upon reeling the fish to the boat, Crocker came face to face with a mouth about seven inches wide. The fish weighed about seven to eight pounds. After releasing the fish, Crocker caught a second oyster toadfish that was about 18 to 19 inches long and weighed about four to five pounds.

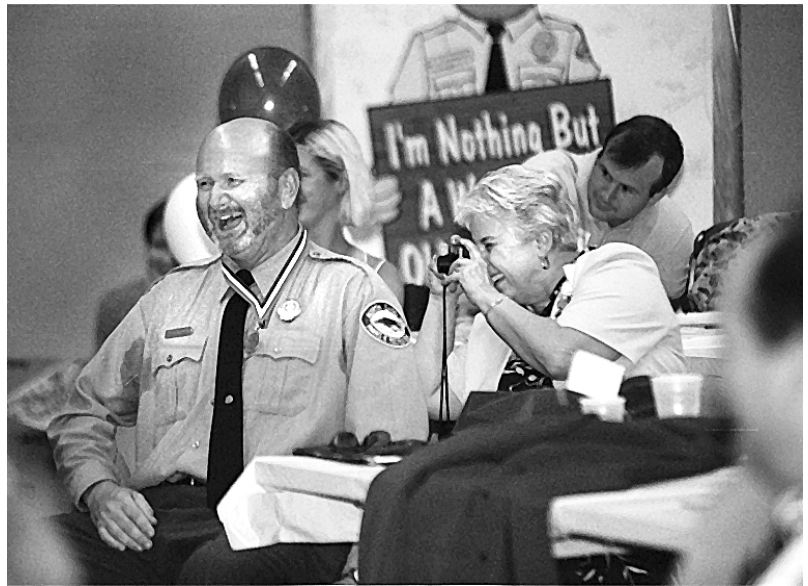
"I am checking into getting someone to recognize it at least in the scientific field for informational purposes," Crocker said, "just to know that these fish do exist and that the books need to be rewritten as to their maximum size."

The current state record is a 3-pound, 10-ounce oyster toadfish caught near Ocracoke Island.





*ABOVE, DAUGHTRY GIVES A FAREWELL ADDRESS. AT RIGHT, HE AND WIFE JANET ENJOY THE ROASTING BY COLLEAGUES DURING HIS RETIREMENT BANQUET.*



## DAUGHTRY

*CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1*

Carolina at Wilmington with a bachelor's degree in biology and joined the parks system in 1971 as a ranger at William B. Umstead State Park in Raleigh.

Daughtry served as a ranger at Lake Norman State Park in Iredell County and Cliffs of the Neuse State Park in Wayne County before being named the first superintendent at Stone Mountain State Park in Wilkes County in 1976. He was promoted to Superintendent III at Fort Macon State Park in 1997. He became one of the division's first three district superintendents in 1981.

Daughtry has received the division's Special Achievement Award and Distinguished

## **SPLASH EVENT BENEFITS PADDLE TRAILS GROUP**

The first annual Cape Hatteras Splash paddling event will be held Sept. 26-28 in Frisco on the Outer Banks.

Seminars, instruction and demonstrations will run continually, and attendees can learn from some of the country's leading authorities on paddling, equipment, safety, conservation, sailing, fishing and more. There will be entertainment by Bland Simpson and the acoustic band Molasses Creek.

Conceived by Get:Outdoors, a paddle sports and adventure travel business, Splash is designed to nurture conservation and environmental stewardship and will benefit The Nature Conservancy and the NC Paddle Trails Association.

Complete event information is at [www.getoutdoors.us](http://www.getoutdoors.us).

Service Award. He is state certified as a public manager, an Advanced Law Enforcement Officer, a general law enforcement instructor and a wildland "burn boss."

Some years ago, Daughtry posed for a caricaturist at the Eno River Festival and the red-bearded "Ranger Scott" persona was born.

And, "Ranger Scott" was everywhere at Daughtry's retirement – on a huge poster that colleagues signed, on placemats, on medallions given to guests.

Gifts from Daughtry's colleagues included twin rocking chairs for his beach cottage, dozens of photographs from his career and a mounted raccoon resembling the website's Possum Pete carrying a sign proclaiming "Long Live Ranger Scott."

Perhaps the most revered gift, however, was presented by fellow district superintendent Susan Tillotson. It is a bronzed version of Daughtry's campaign hat.

Daughtry was the first superintendent in recent memory to attend a retirement banquet in full dress uniform. The ranger's uniform, Daughtry told the group, has always been one of his most enduring symbols. "It's the most positive image we have to go forward with, the most important image we have to use," he said.

"The reason I've hung onto the title of park ranger is that it's the one I've loved the most. I've always been proud to be a park ranger and always will be," he said. "And, I've received compensation far beyond whatever meager labors I have done."

With that, Ranger Scott stood at attention and saluted.

# NORTH CAROLINA STATE PARKS MONTHLY ATTENDANCE REPORT 2003

PARK	JULY 2003	TOTAL YTD JULY 2003	JULY 2002	TOTAL YTD JULY 2002	% CHANGE (2002/2003)	
					JULY	YTD
CAROLINA BEACH	34,577	155,785	31,720	146,419	9%	6%
CLIFFS OF THE NEUSE	20,651	76,991	20,498	88,023	1%	-13%
CROWDER'S MOUNTAIN	16,659	112,683	26,159	186,017	-36%	-39%
ENO RIVER	30,649	168,128	30,369	189,088	1%	-11%
OCCONEECHEE MOUNTAIN	2,929	14,797	3,111	20,566	-6%	-28%
FALLS LAKE	131,305	460,276	159,194	812,055	-18%	-43%
FORT FISHER	97,649	474,514	128,357	676,857	-24%	-30%
FORT MACON	216,030	809,056	218,952	873,690	-1%	-7%
GOOSE CREEK	14,500	79,405	14,862	89,616	-2%	-11%
GORGES	15,329	49,946	31,913	98,106	-52%	-49%
HAMMOCKS BEACH	22,977	99,051	30,279	121,714	-24%	-19%
HANGING ROCK	58,103	210,083	61,339	252,905	-5%	-17%
JOCKEY'S RIDGE	179,270	677,639	170,409	613,578	5%	10%
JONES LAKE	19,996	80,810	17,200	64,836	16%	25%
JORDAN LAKE	167,008	473,730	177,505	1,093,810	-6%	-57%
KERR LAKE	176,344	758,168	255,192	1,129,520	-31%	-33%
LAKE JAMES	48,846	142,783	43,610	188,160	12%	-24%
LAKE NORMAN	53,628	215,806	48,228	236,270	11%	-9%
LAKE WACCAMAW	11,404	61,904	12,036	68,356	-5%	-9%
LUMBER RIVER	5,605	28,961	5,500	30,292	2%	-4%
MEDOC MOUNTAIN	7,147	26,520	11,338	44,682	-37%	-41%
MERCHANT'S MILLPOND	21,087	98,622	8,033	58,764	163%	68%
MORROW MOUNTAIN	40,080	158,278	46,810	279,370	-14%	-43%
MOUNT JEFFERSON	13,482	56,001	14,520	54,336	-7%	3%
MOUNT MITCHELL	116,638	304,805	97,859	297,387	19%	2%
NEW RIVER	27,314	90,608	21,972	93,135	24%	-3%
PETTIGREW	9,753	63,532	9,600	50,188	2%	27%
PILOT MOUNTAIN	45,288	210,342	43,219	229,498	5%	-8%
RAVEN ROCK	10,203	64,784	9,475	70,157	8%	-8%
SINGLETERY LAKE	4,916	16,226	3,452	12,773	42%	27%
SOUTH MOUNTAINS	23,352	108,708	21,245	103,587	10%	5%
STONE MOUNTAIN	45,116	156,744	56,976	269,984	-21%	-42%
WEYMOUTH WOODS	2,430	17,098	2,237	17,295	9%	-1%
WILLIAM B. UMSTEAD	61,224	227,595	43,848	254,429	40%	-11%
SYSTEMWIDE TOTAL	1,751,489	6,750,379	1,877,017	8,815,463	-7%	-23%

# Mission

The mission of the North Carolina Division of Parks & Recreation is:

to protect North Carolina's natural diversity;

to provide and promote outdoor recreation opportunities throughout North Carolina;

*and*

to exemplify and encourage good stewardship of North Carolina's natural resources

for all citizens and visitors of North Carolina.

## ***SAFETY ZONE***

### **Good Housekeeping Is a Safety Tool**

- Σ Practice good housekeeping; put tools, equipment and materials away promptly.
- Σ Keep stairways and walkways clear of obstacles.
- Σ Close file drawers as soon as you're done with them or if you leave the area.
- Σ Clean up or report spills immediately.
- Σ Dispose of trash properly.



### *The Steward*

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